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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 19 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Evgeny M. Primakov, addressed to the participants in the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at the level of ministers for foreign affairs, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 19 and 20 May 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly under agenda items 81, 98, 103 and 104.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the participants of the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 19 and 20 May 1998

I greet the participants of the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which comprises almost two thirds of the world's countries.

In its policy, the Russian Federation is mindful that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries is an important and authoritative factor in contemporary international relations. The Movement has played a major role in settling a number of regional conflicts, combating environmental threats, terrorism, transnational crime and illicit drug-trafficking, and addressing other dangerous challenges to world stability.

We attach priority to the development of comprehensive cooperation with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and we are in favour of intensifying our dialogue with Movement's governing "troika". The concurrence and similarity of the Russian Federation's positions with those of the Movement on most urgent international issues provide a solid foundation for such a dialogue. The countries members of the Movement can count on the Russian Federation to be a reliable and constructive partner.

Moscow highly commends the activities of Colombia during its chairmanship of the Movement. We are prepared to cooperate closely with the Republic of South Africa, the Movement's next Chairman.

I extend my sincere wishes for the success of the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, including the successful preparation of the forthcoming summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

E. Primakov